

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

EXTRAORDINARY REVELATIONS BY A CLAIRVOYANTE.

MESMERISM being now looked upon with a most attentive eye by a large portion of the scientific world, we present the following from the *Manchester Guardian*, considering it a most singular experiment in connection with a subject of great national importance and intense interest:—

"The statements brought by Captain Parker, of the *Truelove*, which he received from the captain of the whaler, *Chieftain*, viz.: that two ships had been frozen up for four years on the west side of Prince Regent's Inlet, and that two others had been frozen up for one year on the eastern side, have not altogether removed the apprehensions of the friends of Sir John Franklin. The cunning of the Esquimaux, the frequent inquiries they must have heard after the expedition, and their schemes to obtain presents from the commanders of English vessels, render it highly pro-

bable that they have invented the statement they give of the position of Sir John Franklin and Sir James Ross, in the hope of obtaining some reward. Had the natives been able to visit either the expedition of Sir John Franklin or Sir James Ross, there can be little doubt that the whole, or a portion of the men, would have availed themselves of the guidance of the natives, either to secure their own safety, or to communicate with any vessel that might appear in search of them. All, therefore, is doubt and uncertainty; and, faint though the hope may be of obtaining information through the agency of clairvoyance, it is but natural that the anxious friends of the parties should cling even to that, in the expectation of receiving some confirmation of the statements of the Esquimaux. The extraordinary statements made by the Bolton clairvoyante to an officer of rank in the royal navy, a friend of Sir John Franklin—statements which he declared, in a letter which appeared in the *Guardian*, to be "full of probabilities"—have induced that gentleman to request Mr. Haddock to put some further questions to his clairvoyante patient. The girl was, accordingly, mesmerised on the evening of Tuesday, the 16th of October, in the presence of several respectable gentlemen; and our Bolton correspondent being also admitted, we now lay before our readers the particulars of this extraordinary investigation. We give no opinion on the subject, but simply state what took place on the occasion. Being very susceptible, "Emma" soon passed from the natural to the mesmeric state, with a deep sigh. Mr. Haddock then informed her that Captain M. wished her to

to your ship? I wish I had my tape, I would measure it. This ship was frozen up, but it is now cut out. That must be Sir James Ross's signal. Then you have not seen him personally? But that signal may be from the ship sent out with provisions. I will go up and look myself. Let me see through that glass. Yes, it is Ross's signal. When do you think you will get the ship cut out? I think you are nearer now than you were before. Well, but I want to know the exact time you expect to get to England. You expect to get out in less than nine months. Have you seen Sir James Ross? Oh, you have seen his signal, but don't know how to get to him." She then said she would go and visit Sir James Ross, and after a short interval, during which she complained of the cold, she exclaimed, "Oh, is it you, Sir James? I have been to see Sir John Franklin, and I want to know whether it is your signal, or one from some other party, that Sir John Franklin can see. Oh, I can tell, it is your signal. Have you seen any natives? Then what makes them say you have seen them? Well, I thought so; if they could get over these heaps of ice, you could get over them also. I would scramble over rather than stop here, to be starved to death. Now, I want to know what time it is with you. Oh, I don't understand your clocks; I have been with Sir John Franklin, who is nearer home than you, and there it was ten minutes past eleven, and now your time is a quarter past ten. Clocks don't go back, do they? Yes, I see there are two ships on their way home—they will bring good news. But before I go back, I will go over there, where it is so black and so

go again in search of Sir John Franklin and Sir James Ross, in order to give him some information as to what they were doing, and whether or not they were in the same place as when she last saw them. She said she would be very glad to see Sir John Franklin; but she was not so fond of Sir James Ross, who was sullen and less communicative. Mr. Haddock then stated that Captain M. wished her to ascertain where Sir John Franklin then was; what time of the day it was with him; and, if at a distance, what time it was at his ships. What time it was with Sir James Ross; whether or not he had seen Sir John Franklin; and whether the account given by the natives to the captain of the Chieftain was correct or not. Mr. Haddock then requested that when she was "away" she would look well at the country, and describe, as well as she could, all that she saw. "Well," said she, "then I will go and see them, and tell you all when I come back."

After a short interval she began to breathe heavily, and said, "Oh! what a wind! Dear me!" she continued, "what heaps of snow! they are higher than ever I saw them. Oh! how cold it is," and she appeared to shiver as she spoke. There was another brief interval, and then she started back, with an expression of disgust, "Oh! those nasty men! Do they drink that stuff to keep them warm? It would make me sick. I would be starved to death before I could drink it!" She then said, "The first thing I want to know is whether the snow is higher than when I was here first. But stop, I will go higher up. Oh! how cold and slippery it is! There, that's the place. It is cold on one side and warm on the other. Now I shall soon get warm. There, now, I can see the ships; but what a height I shall have to go! The ice is higher on the back side of the ship than in front." Then, as if she had found Sir John Franklin, she said, "You told me to come and see you to-day, and I have some notes here (holding up her right arm where she makes her memoranda) of what I have to ask you." She then repeated the topics mentioned to her by Mr. Haddock; and, as if Sir John was giving her information, she said, "Oh! then, your ship is not under water? It is frozen in the ice! That is a good job. I thought it was under the water, and I told Mr. Haddock so. Well, but what time is it? Oh, it must be more than that, for I have had my tea. I'm sure it's more than ten minutes past eleven; I'll go to the ship and see what time it is there." She then went to the ship, and found the time about the same; but she was very incoherent in describing the time from the watches she saw; and Mr. Haddock stated that she had much difficulty in telling the correct time from a watch with the Roman numerals. She then said, "How far is it from this house

cold, and see what there is that Sir John Franklin wants to go for. Oh, the clouds are so low—they seem to come almost to the ground—and it is so dismal. There is no road over here. What is the use of spending so much money for nothing? Oh, what beautiful colours!—a sort of blue red, like when saltpetre is put in the fire. How dark it is! and the stars they don't twinkle, but go round and round. I will go back again; it is so dismal here."

In a few seconds, she described the whales and other fish, and was quite alarmed by wild-looking people, covered with skins, who were jumping about, and eating meat without cooking it. She then said she would stop no longer, but return to Bolton; and Mr. Haddock having made a few passes over her, she related what she had seen and heard. She said she had had some refreshment with Sir John Franklin, who had his provisions in thick tin boxes. He also had some hard meat in a big tub. Sir John, she said, would be out of the ice in less than nine months. That it was ten minutes past eleven by Sir John's time; and a quarter past ten, a good while after, by Sir James Ross's time. That she went a good way further than Sir James Ross, where it was very dark, and the stars went round, and did not twinkle; but she was quite sure it was ridiculous to attempt to find a road for ships over there. That she found Sir John in a house, made of large blocks of ice, about nine yards from the ship. That Sir John had been a great way over the country, but had returned to his ships. That Sir John Franklin had seen the natives, but not Sir James Ross; and that there were two ships on their way home, which would bring good news.

Such is a brief statement of what took place on the evening of Tuesday, the 16th of October. Mr. Haddock, however, not being satisfied with "Emma's" correctness, as to time, put her into the mesmeric state on the following evening (Wednesday, October 17). As she cannot readily read the Roman numerals, Mr. Haddock gave her an old watch, not wound up, with figures 1, 2, 3, &c., on the dial, and told her to set the hands to the time she saw. She did so, and placed the hands at five minutes past twelve (noon), the time in Bolton then being thirty minutes past six (evening). She then put the watch at eleven o'clock (morning), for the time with Sir James Ross. Sir John Franklin, according to this time, would be in 6h. 30m. west longitude (longitude 97½ degs. west); and Sir James Ross in 7h. 30m. west longitude (longitude 112½ degs. west). A map being shown to her, she put her finger upon Prince Regent's Islet, saying, "Sir John Franklin is there;" the longitude being 95 degs. west, which is a near approximation to that indicated by the watch, viz: 97½ degs.

Until Captain M came to Bolton, "Emma" had never had a map given to her; and being ignorant of their construction, Mr. Haddock does not place much dependence upon her accuracy in this particular.

Mr. Haddock appears to think there is a discrepancy in her statement as to the signals of Sir James Ross being seen by Sir John Franklin. For this, however, he says that due allowance should be made, as the clairvoyante is removed from the ordinary laws of space, and may speak of things being near, according to her perception, which, in reality, are very distant.

The statements of this girl have excited great interest all over the country. It has excited attention at the Admiralty; and the matter is said to have been inquired after in high quarters."